(c) Under the scheme of NCLP, at present 22 districts are covered in the state of Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of 51,650 child labour through 1033 special school/centres. The state-wise details of the NCLPs in other Southern States at present is as follows:

State	No. of NCLPs Sanctioned	No. of Schools Sanctioned	Children covered
Tamilnadu	9	425	21,900
Karnataka	5	190	9,500

SEZ p rojects

304. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to permit the investors of SEZ projects for non-paying of EPF, ESI contributions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) It has deen decided that in respect of Special Economic Zones, the State Government may apply for exemption, to the Central Government under Section 1 6(2) of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, from the applicability of the provisions of the Act to SEZ for 5 years. The decision shall be taken on case-to-case basis.

In respect of the ESI Act 1948, the State Government, being the appropriate Government, may take a decision as per the powers provided under the Act.

Construction, forestry and wood workers

305. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of construction, forestry and wood workers working in the country;

(b) whether most of the construction workers are migrant labour;

(c) whether in view of this globalisation and use of modern technology, a large number of illiterate unskilled construction forestry and unorganised sector workers are going to be unemployed; and

(d) what are Government's action plans to upgrade the skill of the construction and forestry wood workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) As per the survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1999-2000, the estimated number of workers engaged in agriculture including forestry and logging and construction were of the order of 23.8 crores and 1.76 crores respectively. The number of workers engaged in organized forestry and logging were of the order of 2 lacs.

(b) Details of the migrant labour for construction activities are not maintained.

(c) and (d) The 'construction sector', as per the recommendations of Dr. S.P. Gupta Committee, is among the important sectors through which additional employment generation is being attempted. Therefore, employment is likely to increase thereby benefiting workers engaged in construction, forestry and in other activities in the unorganised sector. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, training and skill development has been identified as one of the priority areas. Skill training is provided by various organisations like Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) for construction workers, besides Central and State Government as per their capacity.

Accidents in construction projects

306. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are frequent fatal accidents in big construction projects like, Delhi Metro Railway; four golden quadrilateral roads connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata; East-West and North-South, Saurashtra-Silcher and Kanyakumari-Kashmir roads;

(b) the total number of accidents/fatal accidents alongwith the name of the companies and the workers involved, during the last three years; and

(c) whether it is because the construction companies are not implementing health and safety standards, if so, the reasons therefore and the steps taken by Government to prevent accidents in construction projects?